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Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2016

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SOPHIE'S VOICE

Modernize her role, says PM

metroNEWS

Darrell Hurst and his 12-year-old son, Eli, at the family home on Wednesday.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

HAVE 'THE TALK'

20MinutesOfAction4Change campaign encourages fathers to teach their sons about consent

metroNEWS

The Brexit effect (on our candy)

IMPORTS

Brits' EU vote has Canadians worried about U.K. treats

May Warren & Genna Buck
Metro | Toronto

Brexit may be a jolly big deal, but some Canadians are worried it will sour their chances of getting sweet and savoury treats.

Millions of Brits go to the polls Thursday to decide on staying in or leaving the European Union. There are huge issues at stake, from immigration to millions of jobs.

But there's also small stuff that could be caught in the crosshairs.

Andrew Cardozo — who imports British products, from mushy peas to prawn cocktail crisps, to his London Calling shop in Cabbagetown — said he's following the debate closely and is concerned about what might happen if Britain bolts.

"I think the younger people are more going to be voting yes. I have friends in Ireland, and they want to move to London, so if it goes no, they're not going to be able to go to London and work," Cardozo said.

In 2013, Canada reached a free-trade agreement in principle with the EU, known as CETA, but it hasn't been ratified yet.

Crina Viju, an assistant professor of European Economic Integration at Carleton University, said its future is uncertain if the U.K. pulls out. But she doubts Britain will put up any barriers to trade with Canada even if it decides to fly solo.

"If the U.K. will be out of the EU before the ratification happens, what kind of deal will they sign with Canada? The same? Or a better one, or a worse one? Again it's a question," she said.

Paul Million, owner of Mississauga's Simply British foods, has been waiting for the free-trade agreement to be ratified because it will allow him to import British meat products he hasn't been able to sell since Mad Cow disease.

"I think it's going to be a close call," he said.

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Individual results may vary, some are better or worse because it depends on how much time, energy and money an individual puts into their real estate business. © 2016 NVCompanies. All Rights Reserved. Gifts and promotional materials may vary.

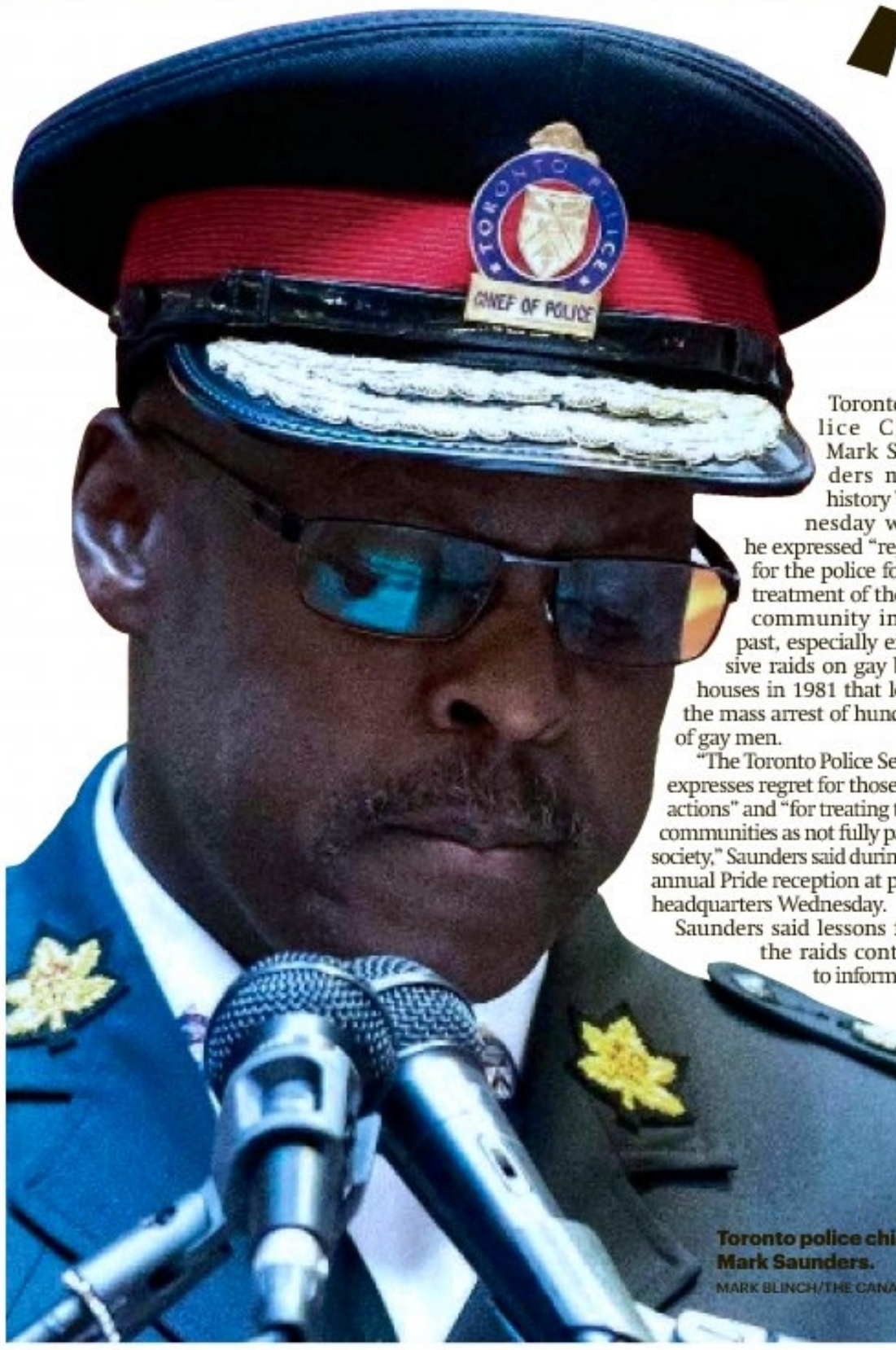
metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Canada Post has no plans for drone mail delivery — yet. **Business**

'REGRET'

On Wednesday, Toronto police Chief Mark Saunders addressed a series of raids on Toronto gay bathhouses in 1981 that saw officers barging in and rounding up people inside. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Toronto police chief Mark Saunders.
MARK BLINCH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto police Chief Mark Saunders made history Wednesday when he expressed "regret" for the police force's treatment of the gay community in the past, especially extensive raids on gay bathhouses in 1981 that led to the mass arrest of hundreds of gay men.

"The Toronto Police Service expresses regret for those very actions" and "for treating those communities as not fully part of society," Saunders said during the annual Pride reception at police headquarters Wednesday.

Saunders said lessons from the raids continue to inform how police reach out to the LGBTQ community, and in light of Orlando, police must continue to support and protect those marginalized because of their sexual orientation. "Policing requires building trust," Saunders said.

"It is a good and appropriate time to acknowledge something in our community that was wrong," Mayor John Tory said before introducing Saunders. "It is timely, it is right and it is necessary."

Rev. Brent Hawkes, a gay activist and pastor, helped Saunders craft the statement. "My intention was to honour the people who went through the horror of that night," he said, adding that he approached Saunders months ago about the possibility.

Saunders did not mention the 2000 raid on Club Toronto on Mutual St., during a women's bathhouse event known as the "Pussy Palace," which left many women feeling violated. Police settled a civil suit in 2005.

The 1981 raids on four downtown bathhouses were carried out after complaints that underage youth were having sex there, says Howard Morton, then director of Ontario's Crown office.

1981 raids of bathhouses by Toronto police explicitly targeted the city's LGBTQ community. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Police humiliated and outed gay patrons of the private clubs, and arrested hundreds of men.

When no evidence was found, the men were instead charged with being found-ins in a common bawdy house, or house of prostitution. In more than 90 per cent of cases, the charges were dismissed in court.

At the time, most men were "deep in the closet" and viewed the private clubs as safe spaces to have sex during a period of widespread homophobia.

"They did wrong," Dennis Findlay, president of the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives, said in an earlier interview. "This was their attempt to slap us into the closet, big-time . . . but it didn't work." Instead, the raids launched the Canadian gay rights movement.

Rumours still persist that the province was involved, but Morton says that when he found out about the arrests he personally told then attorney-general Roy McMurtry.

"He was flabbergasted," says Morton.

"He was the most anti-homophobic guy you could find."

Attorney-general Roy McMurtry, who has said he was "shocked" by the raids, was roundly criticized for allowing the prosecutions to go ahead.

"We were homophobic," says Morton, who is now with the Law Union of Ontario. "Anybody who says we weren't is lying."

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Bike Share feels the heat

TRANSPORTATION

Service suspended as weather delays upgrades

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

If you're wondering why so many Toronto Bike Share docks have been sitting empty, you can blame the heat.

Officials with the Toronto Parking Authority, which oversees the Bike Share program, say this week's hot and humid weather has delayed efforts to upgrade software and hardware at its 80 docks ahead of a planned expansion.

"We were hoping to have a three-day outage, but it's taking a little longer than expected," said Marie Casista, the authority's vice-president of real estate and development.

Bike Share service has been suspended since Friday. Casista was hoping to have things running by Monday, but said staff found it "stressful" to move the bikes around in temperatures exceeding 30 C.

Bike Share docks across the city have been empty since Friday as staff updated the system in preparation for an expansion. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Environment Canada issued an extreme heat alert on Saturday, and called Monday's high of 34 C "the most significant heat episode of the year."

As of Wednesday afternoon, Casista said 60 of Bike Share's 80 docks were up and running, but still needed to be stocked with bicycles. She expects service will be back to normal by Friday at the latest.

> **We were hoping to have a three-day outage, but it's taking a little longer.**
> Marie Casista

"People are upset it's taking so long because the weather has been so beautiful," she said. "They're looking forward to the new system, but they don't understand why they don't have bikes now."

Thanks to the upgrades, she said Bike Share users can look forward to "faster and smoother" payment and bicycle docking.

Bike Share is poised for a massive $6-million expansion this summer. The rollout of 1,000 new bikes and 120 new stations is "imminent," Casista said, hence the need to upgrade existing technology.

"To be able to expand this summer, we needed to have the outage now," she said. "It's a bit of short-term pain."

ACCESSIBILITY ACT

Reverse changes: Activist

Tracy MacCharles, Ontario's new minister responsible for accessibility, must act quickly to reverse a recent regulatory change that weakens the province's goal of becoming fully accessible by 2025, says a disability rights activist.

"This is the closest we've come to having a full-time minister on this file," said Toronto lawyer David Lepofsky, head of a grassroots alliance that monitors progress on the province's landmark Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). "We just hope she can undo the damage."

Under the act, passed unanimously in 2005, all businesses and non-profits with 20 or more employees must have a written policy outlining how they accommodate customers with disabilities, train staff and receive customer feedback.

But earlier this month, the government exempted businesses and non-profits with 20 to 49 employees from having to put their accessible customer service policy in writing.

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Graduating students from Grimsby Secondary School left this Jaguar S-Type on the roof of the school. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Graduating class hits road in style

EDUCATION

Students raise 2001 Jaguar to school roof in year-end prank

Six members of the Class of 2016 at Grimsby Secondary School pulled a graduation prank that's likely to be talked about for years.

There, on the roof of the school one recent Monday morning, was what appeared to be a fully-loaded sports car, complete with school mascot Baldwin the Eagle in the driver's seat, and a licence plate reading GSS2016.

"It took about a month to execute," said Roman Kozak, one of the students who eventually came forward to talk about the stunt.

Kozak said the half-dozen future engineering and computer science students "wanted to do something that would stand out."

After buying a 2001 Jaguar S-Type on Kijiji for $750, the students prudently decided the 6,000-pound car was too tough to lift and could have crushed the roof. They decided to rebuild the exterior of the car around a wood base.

Knowing the janitor only works weekdays, the conspirators gathered on Sunday evening to use an intricate pulley system they learned how to build in physics class to pull the pieces of the frame to the roof.

Using a rope ladder, they gathered on the roof and in three hours assembled the car that has become the talk of the town.

According to Kozak, the six students didn't get into trouble for the prank.

> **We're just really glad that nobody was injured.**
> Principal Shirley Scott

"We were expecting there to be consequences, but the cool thing was going to school and seeing students piled up and looking at the roof," said Kozak.

Even principal Shirley Scott was seen laughing.

"We're just really glad that nobody we know of was injured in getting it up there and assembling it," said Scott Wednesday.

When asked whether the car had been taken down, Scott said, "We're in the process of looking how to do that."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SAFETY

Axe-chuckers aim for liquor licence

Axe-throwing and alcohol: What could possibly go wrong?

The Backyard Axe-Throwing League — which has been catering to Canadian axe-chucking aficionados since 2006 — is aiming for a liquor licence.

CEO Matt Wilson brushes off safety concerns, saying staff at all six BATL locations in Ontario are well trained.

In recent months, a safety specialist was brought in to inspect BATL locations as part of the application to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario.

"We received glowing reviews on the safety to go ahead with the application for the liquor licence," Wilson said. "They were very impressed with the safety of the facility."

Throwers go head-to-head at Toronto's Backyard Axe Throwing League. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Currently, axe-throwers are allowed to bring their own food and non-alcoholic drinks to the league, but Wilson is determined and "optimistic" he'll be able to put bottles back on the shelves.

Wilson estimates 10,000 to 15,000 people visit BATL's two Toronto locations each month.

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NATURE

Mural project aims to remind us of grandeur down the street

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Jason Botkin stands alongside one of several murals he and his team have painted at the mouth of Don River. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Amid all the hustle and bustle, it can be easy to forget that Toronto is on the shores of one of the biggest fresh-water lakes in the world.

That's something a group of local and international artists is hoping to change with the inaugural Love Letter to the Great Lakes street-art festival. Twenty murals celebrating the Great Lakes are going up this week at three sites, with canvases ranging from back alleys to pillars of the Don Valley Parkway and Gardiner Expressway ramps.

Organizer Jacquelyn West hopes the art will connect with ordinary people.

"Instead of looking at what are the things that we need to be scared about, it's more so, how do we in our own way write a love letter to the Great Lakes," she said. "It's not a renewable resource, and we've treated it that way for a long time."

The street art was made possible with money from the PangeaSeed Foundation, which has done "sea wall" murals celebrating oceans in oceanside communities in Mexico, Grenada and New Zealand.

Artistic director and mural artist Jason Botkin said oceans and the Great Lakes face many of the same issues, such as pollution and invasive species.

"There's a gigantic island of plastic floating in Superior," he said.

ART SITES

- Queen and Ossington
- Queen and Spadina
- Mouth of the Don River

Cleaning up the lakes "depends on people in the community changing or swaying the tides of public opinion," he said. That allows for lobbying politicians and corporations to adopt policies that "really change the way that live around the lakes."

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MAPPED
TORONTO'S DEADLY STREETS
Pedestrian traffic fatalities in 2016

Since Toronto unveiled its new road safety plan on June 13, four pedestrians have been killed on city streets. The latest, a man in his 60s, was hit and killed while crossing Dynevor Road Wednesday morning. Police have not said whether charges have been laid in any of the four cases, including that of Algie Parucha, the 38-year-old mother who was run over while on the sidewalk of Bremner Boulevard on June 14.

NEW FATALITY
Dynevor Road & Eglinton Avenue W.

Wednesday, June 22 - Police say a man in his 60s was hit by a driver near Eglinton Avenue West and Dynevor Road. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

1 Kennedy Road & Ellesmere Road
Sunday, Jan. 3
39-year-old man

2 Bayview Avenue & Eglinton Avenue E.
Friday, Jan. 15
85-year-old woman

3 Sheppard Avenue E. & Chichester Place
Sunday, Jan. 17
79-year-old man

4 Dundas Street W. & Poplar Avenue
Thursday, Jan. 28
49-year-old woman

5 Dufferin Street & Armstrong Avenue
Saturday, Jan. 30
90-year-old woman

6 Wedgewood Drive & Tobruk Crescent
Wednesday, Feb. 10
84-year-old man

7 Finch Avenue W. & Tobermory Drive
Saturday, Feb. 13
72-year-old woman

8 Dawes Road & Secord Avenue
Thursday, Feb. 18
74-year-old woman

9 MacDonnell Avenue & Queen Street W.
Thursday, Feb. 18
70-year-old man

10 Queen Street E. & Jarvis Street
Friday, March 4
Woman in her 40s

11 333 King St E.
Wednesday, March 23
79-year-old woman

12 Finch Avenue E. & Skymark Drive
Tuesday, March 29
76-year-old woman

13 Markham Road & Nashdene Road
Thursday, March 31
56-year-old woman

14 Victoria Park Avenue & Patrick Boulevard
Friday, April 22
58-year-old woman

15 Eglinton Avenue E. & Beachell Street
Monday, April 25
62-year-old man

16 Avenue Road & Felbrigg Avenue
Sun. May 1 - An elderly man was found without vital signs.

17 Bremner Boulevard & Spadina Avenue
Tuesday, June 14
38-year-old woman

18 McCowan Road & Lawrence Avenue E.
Wednesday, June 15
63-year-old man

19 St Clair Avenue E. & Danforth Road
Friday, June 17 - A 21-year-old woman was hit by a van.

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‘The talk’ must include respect for women: Dads

RESPONSIBILITY

Campaign sees fathers commit to teaching boys consent

Eli Hurst is 12 years old. Girls have just started to enter his thinking in a new way, and he’s “vulnerable,” says his father Darrell Hurst.

Still, Eli’s views are sturdily progressive, despite the misogyny seeping into the U.S. presidential campaign and corners of Canadian campuses. “Treat girls with respect,” he says.

Darrell recently sat down with Eli to make good on a pledge to talk about consent, a promise he helped put forward as part of the #20MinutesOfAction4Change campaign.

It’s more than a hashtag. Turning a now notorious courtroom quote on its head, the online campaign asks dads to sit down with their sons for 20 minutes and to counter misogynist attitudes, wafting everywhere from Donald Trump rallies to college chants.

Fathers have been silent with their sons for far too long on “a woman’s right to say no,” says campaign founder and Toronto dad Ryan Spelliscy.

His aim: To push father-son chats beyond the antiquated stereotype of “the talk” toward a broader conversation on respectful relationships.

He launched the initiative Father’s Day through the J. Walter Thompson ad agency. Spelliscy is chief creative officer at its Toronto branch.

It was in response to a letter written by Dan Turner and reportedly read in court ahead of a Stanford University athlete being sentenced for sexual assault. The letter described Turner’s son’s sexual assault of an unconscious woman as “20 minutes of action,” for which he should not have to serve time in jail.

“That pissed off myself and a lot of other dads I work with at the agency,” said Spelliscy, part of a JWT group called Dads Who Give a Damn. He called it “deplorable language” and the tipping point in a series of degrading incidents.

Darrell Hurst has talked with his 12-year-old son, Eli, about women’s right to say no as a commitment. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

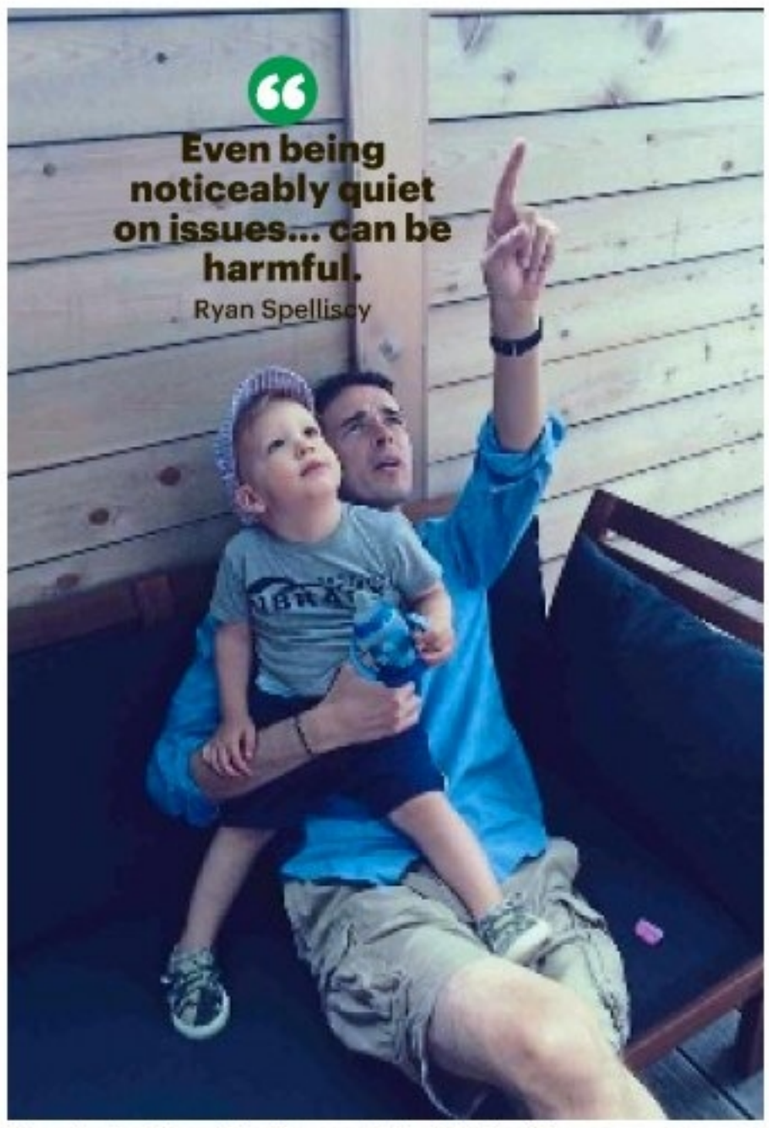
Spelliscy noted that different approaches to instilling values of respect suit different ages.

“If your son’s 15, you’re going to have one kind of conversation; if he’s seven, you might not, but you can be doing things to lead by example in the house,” he said.

“Even being noticeably quiet on issues, and maybe saying inappropriate things at times, can be harmful.”

JWT rolled out the social media campaign in partnership with White Ribbon Toronto, an NGO that works to end violence against women.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Toronto dad Ryan Spelliscy and the J. Walter Thompson ad agency launched a campaign, #20MinutesOfActionForChange, encouraging fathers to talk with their sons about consent.

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EW-21-METRO TORONTO

Check out more Wi-Fi at library

ACCESSIBILITY

System teams with Telus to boost data cap

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Riaz Qureshi, a doctor from Pakistan, is using the service to study for his licensing exam here. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Toronto Public Library is looking to get rid of the data caps on its new lendable Wi-Fi program.

Standing in the way are the country's three largest telecommunications providers.

The library tried "really hard" to negotiate an unlimited data with suppliers, including Rogers, Bell and Telus before the launch, spokeswoman Ana-Maria Critchley said.

"But we weren't given that option," she said.

In the end, the library reached an agreement with Telus that caps the data plan at 10 gigabytes per month. That's enough to send email, job hunt or do some research for school, Critchley said, but it could make watching Netflix or sharing larger files prohibitive.

"Ten gigabytes is a start, and we only want to go up from there," she said, noting "conversations are happening with Telus."

Telus shares "the library's interest in providing Internet access to low-income Canadians," spokesman Richard Gilhooley said in a statement. "We've been in discussions with the library, and we're scheduled to meet with them next week to discuss how we can tailor the offering to better meet their needs."

All 210 wireless Internet hotspots are currently on loan. Among users are a recently arrived doctor from Pakistan, using Wi-Fi to study for his upcoming medical licensing exam, and a refugee living in a shelter, who's searching online for permanent housing, Critchley said.

"People who don't have Internet access at home are at a disadvantage and libraries have a role to play in closing that digital divide," she said.

IN BRIEF

Province doesn't see weed as a cash cow for deficit
Ontario is not banking on a windfall from the legalization of recreational marijuana, says Finance Minister Charles Sousa, looking to eliminate a $4.3-billion deficit. Asked if marijuana will be a cash cow, Sousa was firm: "Not at all." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Homicide probe in Brampton
Two people are dead after a "serious incident inside a residence" on Beaconsfield Avenue in Brampton, Peel police say. The homicide unit is investigating. Police have not confirmed the nature of the deaths. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Refugees still facing delays

SYRIAN CRISIS

500 families, 2,900 people, still wait to come to Canada

In January, Canadian officials matched Sarah Crawford and her sponsorship group with a Syrian family in Turkey and told them the refugees could be here in as soon as four weeks.

The group spent thousands of dollars renting a bungalow near Victoria Park Ave. and Ellesmere Rd. that sat empty for four months before the family of six finally arrived on June 1 from Istanbul.

Despite the long wait and wasted rent money, Crawford's group, Rise Again, from Rosedale United Church, is actually one of the lucky ones. Hundreds of other groups are still waiting for their families to arrive.

According to Canada for Refugees, a coalition of community sponsorship groups, some 2,900 refugees, or about 500 families, who have been fully approved and are ready to travel are stuck in limbo.

"We are asking the Canadian government to arrange charter flights to get these approved families to Canada quickly," said Doug Earl, of Canada for Refugees. "The refugees are in very precarious situations in the Middle East, and there are many citizen sponsorship groups here in Canada waiting to welcome them."

On May 9, Ottawa dispatched 40 additional staff to the Middle East to process Syrian refugee sponsorship applications, in response to a public outcry over processing delays after the government met its target of resettling 25,000 Syrians refugees by the end of February.

> We are asking the Canadian government to get these approved families to Canada quickly. Doug Earl

The latest revelation of delays came just as the government wrapped up a six-week "blitz" in which officials completed 6,100 refugee interviews.

According to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, these individuals and families will continue through the screening process, including full health and security checks. It will be another three to six months before they arrive.

"While it is important to prepare for the arrival of the sponsored refugees, we encourage sponsors not to obtain permanent accommodations too far in advance," the immigration department said

Earl said the number of Syrian refugees waiting for planes to Canada is increasing by 70 a week, and in one of its members' cases, the family was approved in late February and has yet to arrive.

"Many of these families have children whose best interests would be being settled in Canada before the start of the school year," said Earl. "For that to happen, they need to be moved now."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Syrian refugee children look out from their tent at a camp in Sidon, Lebanon on May 3, 2016.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PM wants wife's role modernized

POLITICS

Trudeau is 'very proud' of the work of Sophie

Justin Trudeau summed up his first months in government with a self-congratulatory pat on the back for keeping key electoral promises to aid middle-class families, while also answering questions about the role of a prime minister's wife.

In a news conference eight months after taking power, Trudeau reflected on the work of wife Sophie Grégoire Trudeau when asked if it was time to modernize the role and provide resources for spouses of a prime minister, such as his own. Trudeau answered in French, "Absolutely."

Justin Trudeau and Sophie Grégoire Trudeau. GETTY IMAGES

Trudeau said he was "very proud" of the work Grégoire Trudeau has done for years on women's and children's issues.

Trudeau and his wife were dogged by headlines when they first hired two nannies on the public payroll to help her take care of their three children and juggle various official and unofficial tasks. In May, she said she needed more staff to "serve the people."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

QUEBEC

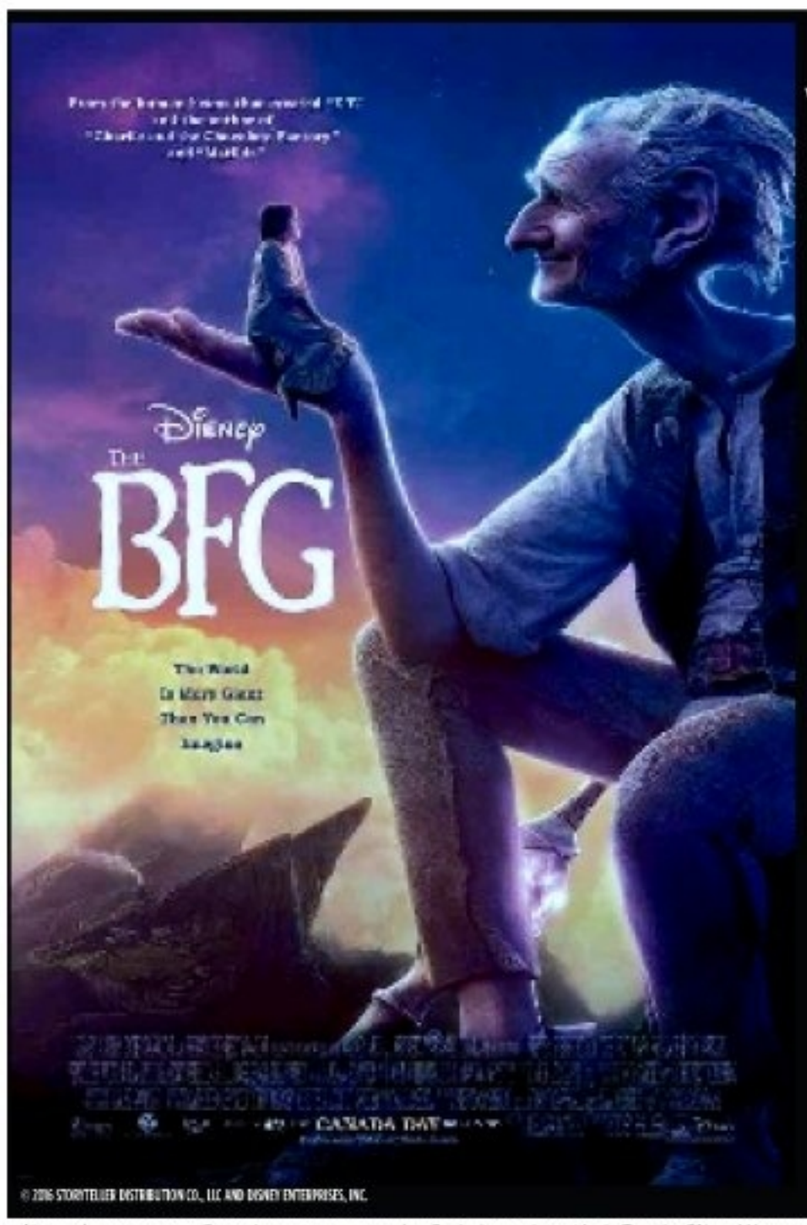
Prison guard held hostage unhurt

Quebec provincial police say a hostage-taking at a courthouse in a remote Quebec town on Wednesday ended after a few hours.

Police say two convicts took a female correctional officer hostage in Sept-Iles before eventually surrendering.

She was not hurt, said police spokesman Helene Nepton.

Two men aged 22 and 26 are expected to appear in court Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Answers to your Brexit questions

EUROPEAN UNION

What you need to know about the upcoming referendum

On Thursday, citizens of the United Kingdom will vote in a referendum on whether their country should remain in or withdraw from the European Union. Here's what you need to know.

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

The referendum question will read, "Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?"

CANADIANS CAN VOTE?

Yes, if you are a Canadian citizen who currently lives in the U.K.

WHAT DO POLLS SAY?

According to the Financial Times's Brexit poll tracker, it's a neck-and-neck race, with 44 per cent in favour of remaining with the EU, 45 per cent in favour of leaving and 11 per cent undecided.

WILL LEAVING IMPACT THE ECONOMY?

In the short term, a vote to leave will likely weaken the pound, and could boost the U.S. dollar as investors look for more stable currencies.

There is largely consensus amongst economists that leaving the EU would have long-term negative consequences for the U.K.

ARE PEOPLE SPLIT ALONG PARTY LINES?

There are notable members for each side of the debate in each party. While Cameron, the leader of the Conservative Party, wants to remain, about 38 per cent of Conservative MPs have declared that they want to leave.

The Labour Party is largely behind Leader Jeremy Corbyn, who wants to remain, but there are some notable members who are pro-Brexit, like John Mann and Dennis Skinner.

HAS IMMIGRATION BEEN A FACTOR IN THE DEBATE?

While some simply don't like the idea of giving the EU control over trade deals and foreign policy, others are scared that Britain's stronger economy makes it a magnet for low-wage European immigrants from hard-hit countries like Poland and Greece.

Some argue this strains not only the U.K. job market, but its social services as well, such as the National Health Service.

This is where the Brexit debate has turned ugly.

HOW IS THE DEBATE LINKED TO THE KILLING OF JO COX?

Cox, a rising Labour MP and notable Brexit opponent, was killed last week by a gunman who reportedly screamed "Britain first." Cox had championed the cause of Syrian refugees.

Her husband says he believes she was killed because of her political views.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

British Prime Minister David Cameron addresses pro-EU supporters during a rally in Bristol, England, on Wednesday.
GEOFF CADDICK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

MIGRANTS

EU agrees on new border plan

The European Union agreed Wednesday to set up a new border and coast guard agency to better manage migrant arrivals after more than a million people came to the EU in search of jobs or sanctuary last year.

The border and coast guard will be built up from the EU's border management agency Frontex. It would establish a pool of 1,500 border guards and technical equipment that the agency could deploy to areas of extraordinary migration flows within about 10 days in times of need. Liaison officers would be stationed in all member states with external borders to monitor those borders.

"We urgently need a European border and coast guard to strengthen our joined external borders in a structural way. With better border controls we have more control over migration streams and we enlarge the safety of our citizens," said Dutch Migration Minister Klaas Dijkhoff.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palestinian families prepare to break their Ramadan fast in el-Zohor slum in the Gaza Strip. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Slum a mirror image of Gaza's plight

The expansion of Gaza's el-Zohor slum, where barefoot children play in the rusty skeletons of discarded vehicles surrounded by mountains of garbage, is a sign of the times in Gaza, where poverty is growing and there is little hope for the future.

While Gaza has always been poor, conditions for the 1.8 million people who live in the crowded seaside territory have worsened since the Islamic militant group Hamas seized power in 2007.

Soon after, Egypt and Israel, citing security concerns, imposed a blockade on the territory in a move that had a devastating impact on the local economy. Deepening the despair, Hamas and Israel have fought three wars since the takeover. Some areas are still in ruins from the 2014 war, and thousands of people are still displaced. The UN warned last year that Gaza could become "uninhabitable" by 2020 if current trends continue.

But even by Gaza standards, conditions are deplorable in the el-Zohor, or "Flowers," neighbourhood near the city of Khan Younis in the southern part of the territory. While Gaza's poor generally have access to basic amenities, health care and municipal services in the neighbourhood are among the worst in the territory.

The shacks, adjacent to a landfill, have no electricity or running water. Piles of garbage encroach on the makeshift homes, covering rooftops with trash while the acrid smell of burning waste wafts over the squalor. The searing heat and long summer days have compounded the difficulty of fasting during the monthlong Ramadan holiday.

The neighbourhood didn't even exist eight years ago. Today, about 50 families live there.

Locals say Hamas is intentionally making conditions worse in the neighbourhood to try to force people off public property. They say if Hamas finds electric wires connected to nearby utility poles, it cuts the lines. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Canada Post looks to explore the skies

The DJI Inspire Raw drone helicopter on display at CES International on Jan. 4 in Las Vegas. It's a little early to tell if the idea will fly, but Canada Post is starting to look at the role of drones in making deliveries. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

MAIL

No plans for deliveries with drones ... yet

It's a little early to tell if the idea will fly, but Canada Post is starting to look at the role of drones in making deliveries.

The post office is quietly exploring the possibility of small, unmanned aerial vehicles one day helping get the mail to where it needs to go, said Jon Hamilton, a Canada Post spokesman.

"We are in a competitive space, especially when it comes to parcel delivery and things like that," Hamilton said in an interview.

In the post office's 250-year history, the manner of getting letters and parcels to Canadians has evolved from a couple of horses to trains, trucks and planes — so it makes sense to eye lightweight, remote-controlled aircraft, he said.

"We do look into these things."

The tiny flying machines have become immensely popular with hobbyists. But they're also used for a variety of government-related and commercial applications, including agricultural surveys, movie shoots, police investigations, meteorology, and search and rescue.

Canada Post declined to release documents through the Access to Information Act about its interest in drones, citing sensitivities such as trade secrets and financial, commercial, scientific or technical data.

But Hamilton insists there are no drone prototypes in the post office laboratory — at least not yet.

He characterized the effort as a "paper exercise" at the very early exploratory stages, aimed at "examining what's out there today."

"It's not something that Canadians are going to see any time soon, if at all."

Still, Canada Post is conscious that companies such as online retailer Amazon are actively investigating delivery drones.

"It may be something that has applications for the postal service," Hamilton said. "But it may be something that is just more of an emerging threat to the existing postal business, and how do we respond to that?"

> **There was a lot of time between moving from horses to trains. Things don't move that slowly anymore.** Jon Hamilton

Amazon bills Prime Air as a future service that will deliver packages weighing up to five pounds in 30 minutes or less using small drones. The company says it has developed more than a dozen vehicle designs, with testing under way in multiple international locales, including British Columbia. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SMARTPHONE

BlackBerry focused on phone profits

BlackBerry Ltd. has targeted this fiscal year to make money from its smartphone business, chief executive John Chen told shareholders at the company's annual general meeting in Waterloo Wednesday.

"We need to make that profitable . . . we have a plan for it," Chen said during a sometimes unruly meeting that saw one investor challenge executive compensation at BlackBerry and accuse management of "bleeding the company dry."

Chen was awarded $85.7 million US in 2014, his first year as CEO, with most of the compensation in the form of restricted shares that vest over five years. His pay fell 96 per cent to $3.4 million in fiscal 2015.

"The device business must be profitable, because we don't want to run a business that drags onto the bottom line," Chen told the meeting. "We've got to get there this year," referring to BlackBerry fiscal 2017 that started in March.

Chen in April said the company would consider ditching the hardware business by September if it cannot be made profitable, stressing, though, that BlackBerry was "very close" to at least breaking even on device sales.

He said then that the operation could be viable with as few as three million annual shipments.

BlackBerry said it recognized revenue on just 600,000 handsets in the fiscal fourth quarter versus 700,000 in the previous three months and did not specify how many of those devices were the Priv.

Chen said the company lacks carrier support in the U.S. and the resources to conduct blanket consumer marketing to life device sales. One shareholder suggested the company place banner ads on porn sites to bridge the gap.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NEW IDEA

One shareholder suggested BlackBerry place banner ads on porn sites to market its devices.

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CHANTAL HÉBERT ON TORY LEADERSHIP MANOEUVRING

Winning Quebec will not alone win anyone the Conservative leadership next spring, but being shut out of the province could be fatal — especially if Ontario splits three or four ways.

On a day-to-day basis, few Parliament watchers pay attention to Lévis-Lobtinière MP Jacques Gourde. On the Hill, his main claim to fame is to have been the only Conservative from Quebec to not make the cut of Stephen Harper's last cabinet. He spent his party's decade in power on the backbench of the government. In the new Parliament, the scenery is different but Gourde's role is as low-key as in the previous ones.

But outside the bubble, the fourth-term MP is distinguished by his electoral resilience. In contrast with colleagues invested with more gravitas such as Michael Fortier — Harper's handpicked senatorial minister for Montreal — or Lawrence Cannon, Josée Verner and Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Gourde kept his rural Quebec seat through challenging Conservative times. He even survived the 2011 orange wave.

Gourde's forte is organization. He cut his teeth as a volunteer for the provincial Action Démocratique du Québec party and the federal Conservatives at a time when both were facing uphill battles just to be taken seriously. In 2006 he decided to run.

In that federal campaign, Gourde's riding was one of the few places where Harper could hope to draw a decent crowd. On one visit to the rural riding, a cortege of 50 pickup trucks was reportedly on hand to provide a motorcade for the Conservative leader. It probably helped that it was the dead of winter and that Gourde's fellow farmers had a bit of time on their hands.

As the long campaign to select a successor to Harper slowly gets underway, most Conservative MPs are keeping their cards close to their chests. They want to see the full lineup before they commit to a camp.

But Gourde has already made his choice. He is the co-chair of Maxime Bernier's leadership campaign and more of a catch than appearances or titles would suggest.

For, notwithstanding his native son status, it is hardly a given that Bernier will earn the backing of many more Quebec MPs.

His penchant for taking a knife to sacred cows has not necessarily endeared him to his colleagues

He once mused about doing away with the language law — a notion that has only negative traction within Quebec's political class.

He believes Canada's corporations, including Bombardier, should be weaned from federal subsidies.

More recently, Bernier came out against supply management, a program of iconic status in rural Quebec. Gourde had to scramble to explain that stance to his own constituents. He ended up soft-pedalling it.

All of which is to say that when the time comes to collect endorsements, the Beauce MP might not be overwhelmed with Quebec caucus support. But by then, it may not matter all that much.

In a one-member, one-vote leadership contest, the weight of the party establishment is infinitely less significant than in the days when so-called ex-officio delegates made up as much as a third of those who voted at delegated conventions.

A solid organization can trump myriad high-profile endorsements.

Just ask former Ontario Tory minister Christine Elliott. She had impeccable connections to the party establishment and a proven track record ... and she was trounced by federal backbencher Patrick Brown in last year's Ontario Tory leadership vote.

Could Bernier pull the same trick at the federal level? That would depend on whether his campaign has boots on the ground in the other regions. This is one operation where having support a mile wide, even if only an inch deep, is actually better than the alternative.

In the Conservative leadership arithmetic, every riding is worth an equal number of points regardless of the size of its membership. Securing a solid footing in Quebec — the province with the second-highest number of seats — early on could turn Bernier into more of a force to contend with than his opponents expect or the polls suggest.

Winning Quebec will not alone win anyone the Conservative leadership next spring, but being shut out of the province could be fatal — especially if Ontario splits three or four ways.

While so-called big name candidates such as Jason Kenney and Peter MacKay fiddle with possible leadership bids, Bernier is preemptively locking Quebec votes. Sometimes the early bird does catch the worm!

FACE OF A KINGMAKER? Low-profile Conservative MP Jacques Gourde is known as a master campaign organizer. Having hitched his wagon to Maxime Bernier, Gourde could play the key role in the party's leadership contest. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

Campus-sex-assault fight requires paradigm shift on privacy issues

When universities play the privacy card in sexual assault allegations, it's a supremely terrible look.

Last week, it was Simon Fraser University's turn to seem both heartless and spineless, the one-two punch of bad PR.

To all questions asked about any details of the case of a male student accused by three female students of sexual assault — complaints more fulsomely catalogued in a series of pieces by the Vancouver Sun's Daphne Bramham — officials responded with the mantra: "I cannot comment due to privacy concerns."

It's a line that sounds suspiciously like obfuscation and brand management. But to be fair, universities are in a legal bind. All public institutions are governed by provincial access to information and protection of privacy laws that include broad restrictions not just for privacy, but the dissemination of any personal information.

Essentially, as privacy expert and lawyer Michael Power told me, schools are prohibited from publishing details that may lead to a person being identified. Power himself would counsel this exact tight-lipped approach.

But this abundance of caution is far from just. It is purely and only legally expedient, and it must change.

Not only does the status quo threaten the safety of women by obscuring important information about alleged criminals, but it de facto privileges the privacy rights of said alleged criminals over justice for victims, nevermind the school's interest in avoiding bad press. This has been the case at schools for decades. No surprise then, evidenced by abysmal reporting rates (about one in 10 assaults), that women have noticed.

We are at a turning point, where provinces are beginning to force universities to institute clear and discrete sexual assault policies. But the laws, while more thorough in Ontario than B.C., remain too weak. They require policies in only the broadest of terms, and rely on schools, historically feeble protectors of women's safety, to magically transform into robust ones. There's no demand to routinely collect and publish crucial data that could finally offer a truer window into the problem. And there are no requirements for universities to report sexual assault complaints to police.

Nor do these bills change the balance of power on campus, which favours the privacy of alleged rapists. Sure, that's how privacy laws have been written. But since they lead to negligent behaviour on the part of colleges, it seems high time we amend those laws to allow more transparency.

If we don't, even schools that want to be more transparent will be prevented from doing so. And the public, and most importantly survivors, will believe that, on sexual violence, schools are all lip service and no action.

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Bryan Cranston signs on for Power Rangers movie reboot

The CFL's hail Mary moment

While our U.S. neighbours have turned football into a religion — from the Friday night lights of high school fields to the ad-strewn Super Bowl — Canadians haven't embraced the game as much. The Canadian Football League has kicked off a new plan to create a deeper bond with younger fans to keep the game alive. Here is how they are doing it. **KATE PETTERSEN** FOR METRO CANADA

CFL HANDOUTS

The Canadian Football League is rich in talent and culture, but for the most part fans are born into it. Maybe your grandfather was a fan, your parents follow the league or your uncle used to play.

In a country where the sports landscape is growing at a rapid pace, arts and culture are thriving in major cities and the competition for peoples' interest continues to increase, the CFL recognized the need for a change.

"We want to keep the brand fresh, new and invigorated for our existing fan base," said Commissioner Jeffery Orridge. "At the same time we need to attract the attention of the next generation of fans."

Their league-wide rebrand is a push to attract millennials with a reenergized presence both on and off the field — one that showcases the skill and athleticism of its players and features a handful of new stadiums across the country.

A party in Montreal last month, featuring a late night performance by Taboo of the Black Eyed Peas, marked the launch of a new clothing deal with Adidas.

More than 300 attendees packed the dance floor of Time Supper Club, staying until close, to mingle with players and snap photos with the Grey Cup.

And, fitting perfectly with the league's fresh mandate, the partnership includes new uniforms, sideline apparel and an Originals lifestyle collection for fans.

Teams have also stepped up their social media presence in effort to create culture and recognition around Thursday Night Football, complete with in-game DJs, pre-game shows, and tailgating. Players are jumping on board to help spread the word: Whether it's Snapchat takeovers during practice, contests for fans on Instagram or behind the scenes video footage on road trips, access to social media is creating a deeper connection between fans and some of the league's brightest stars.

In terms of revamping the CFL's game day feel, the Argos' move to BMO field is a great example.

Their new location gives prospective fans a chance to walk from bars and restaurants in Liberty Village to the pre-game tailgate party.

To help create hype around their new home, a few players made a surprise appearance at a local patio over the Victoria Day long weekend as celebrity servers, treating perspective fans to a complimentary round of drinks.

As a result, the new trend is starting to catch on.

Ben Trainor, a Toronto-based videographer and sports fan, has never been to a CFL game. While watching the Raptors in the playoffs he saw an ad for the Argos upcoming season and decided to give it a shot.

"I bought tickets for my girlfriend and I. We're going to check out the tailgate and see what it's all about. When you're stuck in the city during the summer instead of at the cottage, it's a great way to spend a night."

For Ben, the convenience of location is key. "We live right in Liberty Village so it's a short walk. I can see a few Saturday patio days turning into afternoons at a game."

Feedback so far has been overwhelmingly positive, said Orridge.

"The players love the idea of this new style CFL. They realize they are the most valuable assets of the league and it's a real focus that we're showcasing them not only on the field but also telling their stories off the field."

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Welcome to the pre-game party

CULTURE

American enthusiast shares his tailgating tips

It might not come naturally to many Canadians, but for an American like professional tailgating enthusiast Joe Cahn, tailgating is instinctual.

"Disney stole my line — it's the happiest place on Earth," says Cahn, also known as "The Commissioner" of tailgating on Tailgating.com. "We may not be able to punt, pass or kick, and we may not be able to get in the game, but we can still be a part of it."

Cahn, who spoke on the phone from Fort Worth, Texas, has been to more than 1,000 National Football League tailgates. In a single season in the '90s, Cahn attended a tailgate at every NFL stadium, something not possible for CFL fans here due to restrictions on drinking and grilling in public parking lots.

But Toronto football fans are set to get a taste of Americana today as the Toronto Argonauts host the first official tailgate party of the CFL season at BMO Field ahead of their home-opener against the Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

Beer will be sold for $4 a can along with coolers and non-alcoholic drinks, but fans cannot bring their own alcohol. For Cahn, the tailgate is about more than drinking anyway. He calls the tailgate "the last great American neighbourhood."

"We can now include the last great Canadian neighbourhood," he says. "At a tailgate, we all have something in common. We have our passion for the team."

How to Tailgate
Cahn's biggest piece of advice: keep it simple."You don't have to have much. It's just the celebration itself," he says. He also offers a word of caution to Argos fans: "Don't abuse the privilege. This it the first time it's being allowed and other cities will look at how fans conduct themselves."

Gear
Football is about fan spirit. Don't come to the tailgate without donning the appropriate team colours. "Be a participant rather than an observer," says Cahn. "You don't need much and you don't have to go to great expense."

Grill
Mind the rules: The Argos tailgates will allow charcoal grills and propane tanks no larger than 20 pounds. "People with a pickup used to be the only ones who brought a grill," says Cahn. "Now there are so many portable stoves and collapsible stoves that you could put in a Mini Cooper."

Food
Cahn suggests grilled kebabs are more suitable to a tailgate than meat that requires a plate, knife and fork. Variety is important, but Cahn emphasizes his "keep it simple" message: "You're not in a barbecue contest. Rachael Ray is not coming to your party," he jokes. "A hotdog that's grilled or boiled among friends tastes better than a 10-course meal prepared by the best chefs in the world."

Cooler
The Argos tailgate prohibits guests from bringing their own alcohol, but a cooler to keep non-alcoholic beverages from succumbing to the heat is a must. "Beer is not hydration. You don't have to consume alcohol to have a good time," says Cahn, offering a summer heat tip: "You can never have too much ice. Always have extra ice in the cooler."

Lawn chairs
While a walk around the parking lot to socialize is a must-do, tailgaters will also want a place to rest their feet — most tailgates start three hours before kickoff. Cahn suggests collapsible lawn chairs for the whole gang.

Games
Tailgating isn't just about the game in the stadium. Many partiers enjoy rounds of "cornhole" bean bag toss or friendly catch with a football.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fans enjoying the Argos tailgate during a pre-season game.
TORSTAR NEW SERVICE

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1	2	6	7	8	3	4	9	5
5	3	7	1	4	9	6	2	8
4	8	9	5	6	2	3	7	1
3	6	1	4	9	7	5	8	2
2	5	8	3	1	6	7	4	9
9	7	4	2	5	8	1	6	3

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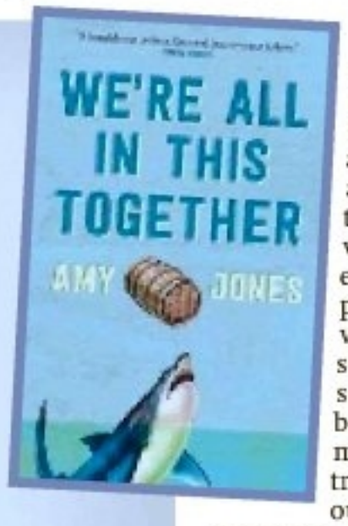
Tumbling over the edge — in a barrel

DEBUT NOVEL

Story of quirky family pegged on daredevil waterfall stunt

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



Amy Jones says "I really like writing about places" and tried hard to get the emotional feel of Thunder Bay right in her debut novel. CONTRIBUTED

Whenever Amy Jones visits Kakabeka Falls, which isn't far from her home in Thunder Bay, she often has a morbid thought: "What would happen if I fell in?"

And that's what happens to her character, Kate Parker, the matriarch of a dysfunctional family, in Jones' funny but heartfelt debut novel, We're All in This Together.

Except that Kate intentionally chooses to go over the 40-metre-high falls, daredevil-style, in a barrel. (In reality, Jones is fairly certain that no one could survive the ride.) Kate's kamikaze-grandma stunt is captured on a video that goes viral and makes international tabloid news, pulling together three generations of the Parkers in what is only the beginning of the family's adventure.

Kate's near death brings back to town her daughter Finn, the only member to have left Thunder Bay and whose lonely life in Toronto has fallen apart.

Kate's husband, Walter, seems in turn bewildered and accepting of his wife's erratic behaviour. There's Shawn, a former street kid who has lived with the Parkers for years but still feels emotionally insecure in his position within the family, and his wife Katriina, a seemingly all-together real estate agent with dark secrets of her own.

And then there's Nikki — Finn's identical twin sister and opposite in all ways — a fiery single mom with several kids, including a son conceived with Finn's then-boyfriend, and London, a precocious animal lover who falls in love online with a Shark Week host.

We're All in This Together is a complicated layering of time shifts and perspectives, as each character takes their turn revealing their inner emotional lives and personal history. In writing the manuscript, Jones used sheets of Bristol board and coloured markers to keep track of all the various timelines and backstories.

"It was a big knot that I was trying to untangle, pulling out threads," she says.

Jones always knew that she wanted her book to be set in Thunder Bay, her adopted home of six years. Many of the short stories in her first book, What Boys Like, were set in Halifax, where she grew up.

"It's become part of my trademark," she says.

"I really like writing about places."

She had observed that outside of a few exceptions, such as Michael Christie's If I Fall, If I Die, there has been very little northwestern Ontario literature set in an urban environment.

"I feel really inspired by the city. Not in the way that people would assume — the natural landscape and the forest and the lake," says Jones.

"Really what I find fascinating about living here are the people and their tenacity. The real family connections that people have. The constant pull of needing to go or wanting to stay, and vice versa. It's a very complex relationship with the city."

Although Jones did plenty of research about the region, even digging deep into topics such as ground erosion, she was more concerned about getting the emotional feel of Thunder Bay right.

"I really did want it to reflect back what I saw and what I experienced. I tried to be as honest as I could be," says Jones.

"I didn't think about it when I was writing, but since people have been reading the book, I feel like an ambassador."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Lawren Harris doc relishes in his prose

THE SHOW: Where the Universe Sings: The Spiritual Journey of Lawren Harris
THE MOMENT: The letter to Emily

Ben Low as Lawren Harris at Quidi Vidi, Newfoundland, from the documentary Where the Universe Sings: The Spiritual Journey of Lawren Harris. CONTRIBUTED

As we see in this documentary by Nancy Lang and Peter Raymont, the Canadian painters Lawren Harris and Emily Carr met in 1927 and began exchanging letters. She praised his "world shorn of fretting details, purged and purified."

He encouraged her, "Stay with your own way. Use the feeling that the stuff is awful to make the next thing less awful. I've learned to keep right on, despite the recurring sureness that my stuff is pretty damn sad."

A more succinct summary of the artistic mindset you cannot find.

Harris didn't leave us only paintings. He also gave us reams about why he painted; why he needed to. "I'm in great need of losing my littleness," he wrote in 1930, on his first trip to the Arctic, where he'd make some of his most definitive work. "I'm hoping to get freed from my inhibitions and move into exaltation."

This doc makes liberal use of Harris's prose. Sometimes we hear it in voice-over (from Colm Feore) while an actor pretends to paint.

This is hokey but forgivable. Much better are the times when his words wash over us while the camera lingers on his art. In these moments, the spiritual journey promised by the title comes most alive.

I'm truly worried for future biographers and filmmakers, who will have to explain their subjects without the gift of correspondence.

You don't find a phrase like, "Art is a bridge between the great moral harmony of the universe and our own souls" in an email.

Create meaningful change with $50K

Whether it's a playground revamp, a new kids sports program or renovation of a beloved recreational centre, Canadians have the chance to make their community dream a reality thanks to the goeasy Community Project.

An alternative financial services company, goeasy recently launched a contest that will award up to $50,000 to a local project anywhere in the country. Individuals can submit entries for their community until July 8 at goeasy.com/communityproject. Anyone can nominate a project they believe in, and the Canadian public will help determine the winner by voting online for their favourite.

After supporting local communities for years through a partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada, goeasy wanted an opportunity to give back to other in-need communities nationwide.

"After seeing the impact we have been able to make in the lives of many children from across the country, we knew there was more that we wanted to do to help Canadians make an impactful change in the neighbourhoods that mean the most to them," says Andrea Fiederer, executive vice-president and chief marketing officer at goeasy.

CONTRIBUTED

Once the submission round closes on July 8, Canadians will have the ability to vote for finalists from July 15 to 31. The winner of the $50,000 prize will be announced August 3.

What can get your project more votes? "Focus on a project that will create a large impact in the heart of your community. Pictures and videos speak a million words because they can really showcase not only the community, but the people that make it so special and unique" says Fiederer.

Check out #goeasycommunity on social media to follow along with the contest.

POLITICS AND POETRY

For months, the baffling, repetitious ravings of Donald Trump niggled at the back of the mind of University of Pennsylvania linguistics professor Mark Liberman: Something was familiar.

"Where else have I seen or heard this pointillistic, repetitive style?" Liberman mused this week on his blog, Language log. He took out the punctuation, and "suddenly the stylistic model leaps off the page."

Trump's speeches are uncannily similar to 20th century poet Gertrude Stein — known for her skilful use of nonsense and repetition. GENNA BUCK/METRO

"You know the Republicans honestly folks our leaders our leaders have to get tougher. This is too tough to do it alone but you know what I think I'm gonna be forced to. I think I'm going to be forced to. Our leaders have to get a lot tougher. And be quiet, just please be quiet don't talk please be quiet. Just be quiet to the leaders. — Donald Trump

"There is singularly nothing that makes a difference a difference in beginning and in the middle and in ending except that each generation has something different at which they are all looking. By this I mean so simply that anybody knows it that composition is the difference which makes each and all of them then different from other generations and this is what makes everything different otherwise they are all alike and everybody knows it because everybody says it. — Gertrude Stein

GRAPHIC NOVEL

When superheroes don't save you

Dark Night: A True Batman Story
BY: Paul Dini and Eduardo Russo
PUBLISHER: DC Comics/Vertigo

One night, Batman writer Paul Dini was walking alone when two men approached, yelling insults.

They beat him, badly, sending him to the hospital. But although the physical damage was severe, the worst damage was psychological. How can you write Batman: The Animated Series when you know there's no hero coming to save you?

This unusual graphic novel is something special. Although it features comic book characters like Harley Quinn, who Dini co-created, it's autobiographical. The costumed heroes and villains are in Dini's imagination, manifesting as he tries to recover from his injuries, seen and unseen, and regain his voice as a writer.

The story is harrowing in places, especially a scene where Dini self-harms using an Emmy Award he's just won. There's also a brutality in the writing, as if he's beating himself up with criticism and too much honesty.

But there's charm, too.

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

A soldier's view of the Middle East troubles

NEW BOOK

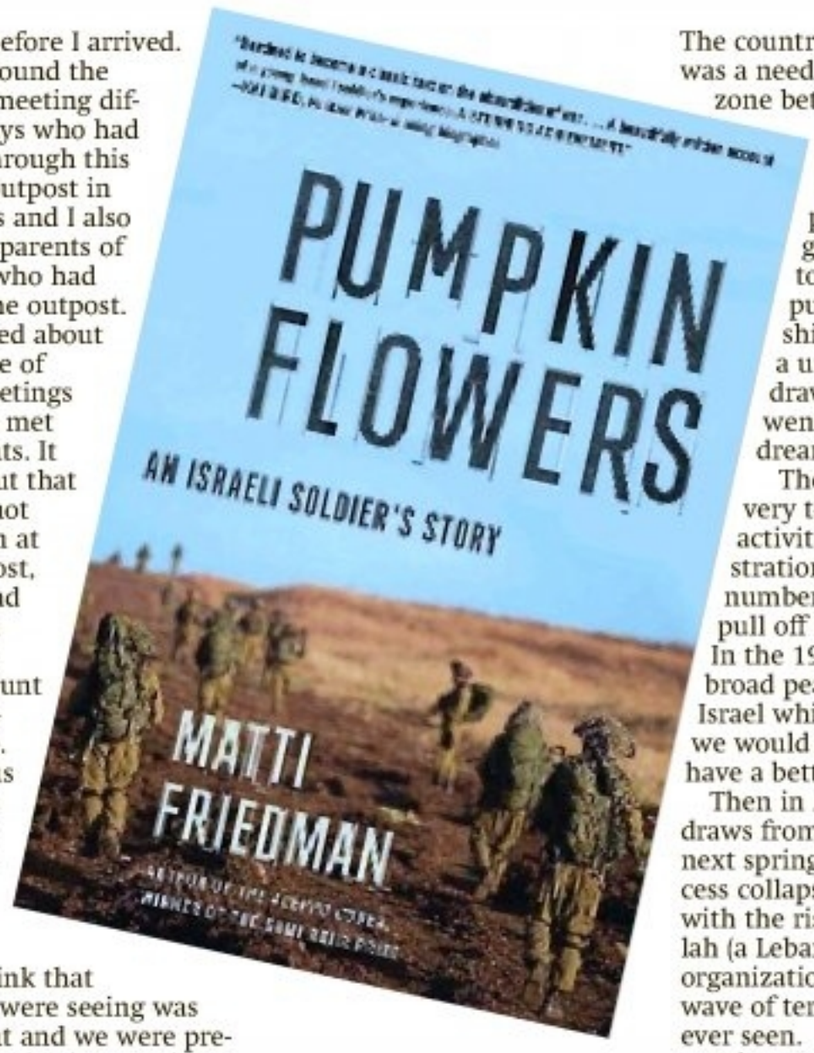
Matti Friedman looks at the absurd nature of war

After finishing high school in Toronto, Matti Friedman decided to go to Israel. He was required, like others of his age, to do army service, a teenager who had never held a gun. Friedman later became a journalist and has written several books about the Middle East. His latest, Pumpkinflowers: An Israeli Soldier's Story, is about troops in the late 1990s defending the "security zone" that Israel established in south Lebanon. "Pumpkin" was Israel's name for a hilltop military outpost there. "Flowers" was the code word for soldiers felled in action. Here Friedman talks about his new book.

The first section of your book deals with a young Israeli soldier, Avi, who was killed at the Pumpkin in a terrible helicopter crash. You never met Avi. Why write about him rather than one of his peers who were also killed? Just because Avi had a rebellious streak?

I knew the story needed to start in 1997, when the hill became notorious because of the helicopter crash that killed 73 soldiers. I looked for soldiers who had been on the hill before I arrived. I went around the country meeting different guys who had passed through this strange outpost in the 1990s and I also spoke to parents of soldiers who had died at the outpost.

I learned about Avi in one of these meetings and then met his parents. It turned out that Avi had not only been at the outpost, but he had written a considerable amount about being there. Most of us didn't do that. We were extremely young and we didn't think that what we were seeing was important and we were preoccupied with just getting through. As soon as I saw his writing and saw he had a unique pair of eyes, I knew I could write about him.



During the time you served in the Israeli army, Israeli mothers were pushed to protest their sons' involvement in fighting the guerrillas in Lebanon.

The group called Four Mothers was formed shortly after the helicopter crash. At this point, the country is starting to think about the Lebanon enterprise.

The catalyst for this change in public opinion was the group of mothers who got together to start a protest movement.

The country believed there was a need for a security zone between Lebanon and Israel. But after a year or two of very active protest and a growing casualty toll in Lebanon, public thought shifted. The idea of a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon went from being a dream to a reality.

The mothers were very tenacious in their activities. It is a demonstration of what a small number of citizens can pull off in a democracy. In the 1990s there was a broad peace movement in Israel which really believed we would get peace and have a better future.

Then in 2000, Israel withdraws from Lebanon. The next spring the peace process collapses. It collapses with the rise of the Hezbollah (a Lebanese-based terror organization) and the worst wave of terrorism Israel had ever seen.

What we have now is a Middle East that is much worse than anyone could have imagined.

Reality in this region has not been kind to the Four Mothers and the peace movement. What is going on now was born out the darkest dreams of those on the right.

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Project overview

Rising 25 storeys in limestone and pre-cast stone, The Vanguard features spacious family-sized units, as well as LEED gold sustainability and integrated indoor and outdoor green-spaces, in a mixed-use building with 12,000 square feet of retail space.

Housing amenities

A 7,000 sq. ft. terrace includes a lounge area, a gourmet barbecue area and community gardens. There's also a library, a theatre and a fitness room with equipment that harnesses energy and pumps it back into the grid.

In the neighbourhood

The area boasts exceptional schools, shopping at the Centerpoint Mall, the Thornhill Village Library and Goulding Community Centre. The city has plans to further transform the area through ongoing development and infrastructure.

Location and transit

Located in the well-established Grandview neighbourhood along the Yonge Street Corridor, The Vanguard is a five-minute bus ride to the TTC Finch subway station, with YRT bus routes on Yonge. Drivers are minutes from Highways 7 and 407.

DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

CONTRIBUTED

NEED TO KNOW

What: The Vanguard
Builder: Devron Developments
Architect: Kirkor Architects and Planners
Interiors: II BY IV Design
Location: 7089 Yonge St., north of Steeles
Building: A 25-storey building with 200 suites
Sizes: From 522 square feet to 3,500 sq. ft.
Pricing: Starting from the high $200,000s
Suites: From one bedroom up to four bedrooms
Status: Pre-construction, registration phase
Occupancy: Fall 2019
Sales Centre: Coming soon in summer 2016
Hours: Monday to Thursday 12 to 6 pm., Weekends 12 to 5 p.m., closed on Fridays
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Website: vanguardto.com
Email: info@vanguardto.com

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

1 OPEN HOUSE

Yonge and Davisville: Here's a great one bedroom condo suite being shown this weekend at Yonge and Davisville, with a short walk to the subway. Head over to 1815 Yonge St., on June 26 from 2 to 4 p.m. Contact: Vijay Kumar, Sutton Group Signature Realty Inc., Brokerage. 905-286-5888

2 NOW REGISTERING

Leslieville: Take advantage of preconstruction prices at 875 Queen East, a new condo development in Leslieville by Harhay Developments. Contact: 416-694-8750, 875queeneast.com

3 OPEN HOUSE

The Annex: Check out this large, bright two-bedroom condo in the Annex with a view of the CN Tower. Head over to 1 Bedford Rd., on June 25 and 26 from 1 to 4 p.m. Contact: Andrew Ipekian, Keller Williams Referred Urban Realty, Brokerage, 416-388-7955

DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

metro SPORTS

Golfer Rory McIlroy opted out of the Rio Olympics because of concerns about the Zika virus, saying it is "a risk I am unwilling to take"

NBA IN BRIEF

Knicks land former MVP Rose in trade with Bulls

The New York Knicks acquired Derrick Rose from the Chicago Bulls on Wednesday, hoping the former NBA MVP can be their answer at point guard.

The Knicks sent centre Robin Lopez and guards Jose Calderon and Jerian Grant to the Bulls in the deal. New York also received guard Justin Holiday and a 2017 second-round pick, and waived point guard Tony Wroten.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cleveland celebrates Cavs

Hundreds of thousands of fans overwhelmed downtown Cleveland to celebrate the Cavaliers' NBA championship.

Fans, celebrating the end of the city's 52-year championship drought, also stood on rooftops, portable toilets and hung out of office building windows hoping to get a glimpse of LeBron James, Kyrie Irving and their teammates.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LeBron James GETTY IMAGES

Edwin Encarnacion rounds the bases after hitting his 19th home run of the season Wednesday.

TOM SZCZERBOWSKI/GETTY IMAGES; INSET: TORONTO BLUE JAYS INSTAGRAM

Edwing has liftoff

MLB

Jays DH doesn't disappoint on his T-shirt giveaway day

At Rogers Centre

5	2
BLUE JAYS	D-BACKS

Everyone was getting in on the Edwing on Wednesday afternoon.

Edwin Encarnacion was one of three Blue Jays hitters with a home run as Toronto beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 5-2 to end a three-game losing skid.

Encarnacion's 19th homer of the season came on the same day that fans at Rogers Centre were given a white and blue shirt with a parrot's wing emblazoned on the right shoulder. The shirt was designed to honour the Blue Jays designated hitter's "Edwing" celebration where he rounds the bases with his right arm held out at a 90-degree angle from his body, as if he was carrying a tropical bird on his arm.

"I'm thankful to God for this opportunity and to hit a home run on the day they give my T-shirt away," said Encarnacion through a team translator. He changed into one of the give-away shirts before speaking with media, as did Blue Jays manager John Gibbons.

Gibbons spoke about the importance of Encarnacion's production while all-star right-fielder Jose Bautista is on the 15-day disabled list with turf toe — all while holding his right arm out at his side in the Edwing.

"You've got to have guys step up," said Gibbons. "Eddie's just doing his normal thing, you can't ask for anything more. He does enough as it is."

Russell Martin and Troy Tulowitzki also homered for Toronto (40-34). Starting pitcher J.A. Happ (9-3) gave up six hits and four walks but struck out eight and gave up only two runs in five innings of work.

Osuna earned his 14th save of the season with a 1-2-3 ninth.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Board of governors all in on Las Vegas

The NHL is officially rolling the dice on Las Vegas.

Commissioner Gary Bettman said the league's board of governors has accepted an expansion bid from Las Vegas with the new team to begin play in the 2017-18 season.

He said Wednesday's vote was unanimous.

"We think this is a tremendously exciting opportunity, not just for Las Vegas, but for the league," Bettman said. "This expansion comes at a time when our game is more competitive than ever, ownership is stronger than ever, the player base is more talented than ever and the business, and the future opportunities for the business, are greater than ever."

The board also decided to defer Quebec City's bid, despite the city having a brand new arena as part of its application to become the 31st NHL franchise. Bettman said the fluctuation of the Canadian dollar and the league's geographical imbalance — there are currently 16 teams in the Eastern Conference compared to 14 in the West — were factors that worked against Quebec City's bid.

"There is no doubt as to the passion for NHL hockey in Quebec City, there is no doubt as to the suitability of the Videotron Centre as a home arena for a team, and there is no doubt to the ownership credentials ... of Quebecor, which has been an outstanding partner," Bettman said.

The Las Vegas franchise will begin to populate its roster with an expansion draft prior to the 2017-18 season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

$500M

Prospective Las Vegas owner Bill Foley will need to pay a $500-million US expansion fee. The last expansion team — Minnesota in 2000, paid just $80 million to join the league.

NHL AWARDS

Hart Memorial Trophy (most valuable to his team)
Patrick Kane, Chicago
Ted Lindsay Award (MVP as voted by NHLPA)
Patrick Kane, Chicago
James Norris Memorial Trophy (top defenceman)
Drew Doughty, L.A.
Vezina Trophy (top goaltender)
Braden Holtby, Washington
Calder Memorial Trophy (outstanding rookie)
Artemi Panarin, Chicago
Jack Adams Award (top coach)
Barry Trotz, Washington

Go to metronews.ca for more from Wednesday's NHL Awards.

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A song of Ice and Ire

1 In Lille
Robbie Brady became an Irish legend.

2 In Saint-Denis
Arnor Ingvi Traustason's goal gave Iceland a most unlikely win over Austria.

3 In Lyon
Cristiano Ronaldo scored two in a 3-3 draw with Hungary.

4 In Nice
Zlatan Ibrahimovic played his final international match in Sweden's a 1-0 loss to Belgium. GETTY IMAGES

EURO 2016
GROUP STAGE ENDS

Iceland, Ireland etch names in tournament lore

Ireland advanced to the knockout stages of the European Championship for the first time after it beat a reshuffled Italian side 1-0 on Wednesday.

An 85th minute late goal from Robbie Brady was enough for the spirited Ireland side to secure a place in the round of 16 as one of the best third-place teams. Its reward — a match against France in Lyon on Sunday.

"It was very special. I am thrilled, it was a great win," Ireland coach Martin O'Neill said. "We deserved to win. We played some phenomenal stuff. There wasn't a player in the Irish shirt that didn't play heroically."

Italy was already assured of top spot in Group E after two straight group wins.

Brady's goal was just reward for an inspired performance by the Ireland team, which needed to win to get through.

His goal, which stemmed from a cross by second-half substitute Wes Hoolahan, came just moments after Hoolahan himself had missed a golden chance to put Ireland ahead.

Iceland, the smallest nation at the Euros, delivered the feel-good story of the tournament by beating Austria 2-1 to qualify for the round of 16.

The victory, secured by a goal deep into stoppage time by Arnor Ingvi Traustason, earned Iceland's players the game they'd dreamed of: A last-16 match against England.

"I have always supported England in the big international tournaments, when we haven't been playing," Iceland defender Kari Arnason said. "It's a dream come true."

The tiny island nation of barely 330,000 people was expected to struggle in France. Instead, Iceland finished second in Group F on five points, unbeaten and above Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal.

Ronaldo's two strikes helped Portugal earn a 3-3 draw with Hungary, sending both teams through.

And a 1-0 loss to Belgium spelled the end of Sweden's run in France. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **We are not going to give up here. We've managed to beat some of the best teams in the world.**
> Robbie Brady

ROUND OF 16

SATURDAY
Switzerland vs. Poland
Wales vs. Northern Ireland
Croatia vs. Portugal

SUNDAY
France vs. Republic of Ireland
Germany vs. Slovakia
Hungary vs. Belgium

MONDAY
Italy vs. Spain
England vs. Iceland

GROUP TABLES

GROUP A	W	D	L	+/-	PT
FRANCE	2	1	0	3	7
SWITZ.	1	2	0	1	5
ALBANIA	1	0	2	-2	3
ROMANIA	0	1	2	-2	1

GROUP B	W	D	L	+/-	PT
WALES	2	0	1	3	6
ENGLAND	1	2	0	1	5
SLOVAKIA	1	1	1	0	4
RUSSIA	0	1	2	-4	1

GROUP C	W	D	L	+/-	PT
GERMANY	2	1	0	3	7
POLAND	2	1	0	2	7
NOR. IRELAND	1	0	2	0	3
UKRAINE	0	0	3	-5	0

GROUP D	W	D	L	+/-	PT
CROATIA	2	1	0	2	7
SPAIN	2	0	1	3	6
TURKEY	1	0	2	-2	3
CZECH REP.	0	1	2	-3	1

GROUP E	W	D	L	+/-	PT
ITALY	2	0	1	2	6
BELGIUM	2	0	1	2	6
REP. IRELAND	1	1	1	-2	4
SWEDEN	0	1	2	-2	1

GROUP F	W	D	L	+/-	PT
HUNGARY	1	2	0	2	5
ICELAND	1	2	0	1	5
PORTUGAL	0	3	0	0	3
AUSTRIA	0	1	2	-3	1

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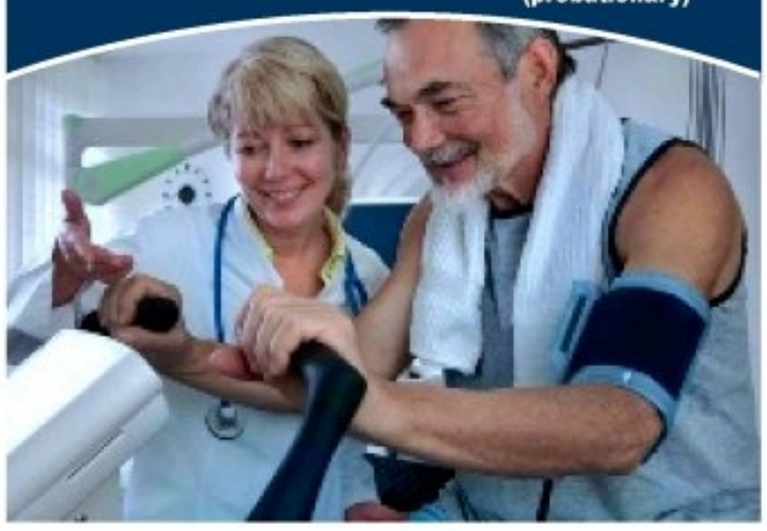

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RECIPE Grilled Shrimp Salad

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

The black beans and corn make this a hearty and satisfying meal.

Ready in
Prep time: 1 hour
Cook time: 30 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 Tbsp lime juice
- 1 tsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- 2 cloves of garlic minced
- couple of grinds of black pepper
- 1 pound large shrimp,
- 4 or 5 wooden skewers
- 2 or 3 cobs of corn
- 1 x 19 ounce can black beans
- 1 red pepper, diced
- 1/2 cup chopped cilantro
- 1 avocado, diced
- 4 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 3 Tbsp lime juice
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp cumin
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1 head Boston lettuce, washed, spun and chopped

Directions

1. Mix together vegetable oil, lime juice, soy sauce, sesame oil, garlic and pepper in a bowl. Add shrimp, cover, and place in the fridge for about an hour. Soak your wooden skewers.

2. Oil your grill and turn on high. Place corn on top and cook for 15 to 20 minutes, turning every 5 minutes. Remove and allow to cool before slicing off the kernels. Mix corn, beans, chopped peppers and coriander in a bowl. Fold in avocado. Whisk together oil, lime juice, salt, cumin and pepper. Dress the bean mixture.

4. Take shrimp out of fridge and put about three on each skewer. Barbecue for about six minutes. Allow them to cool slightly before sliding them off the skewers.

4. On a serving plate, arrange the chopped lettuce and pile the beans and grilled shrimp on top.

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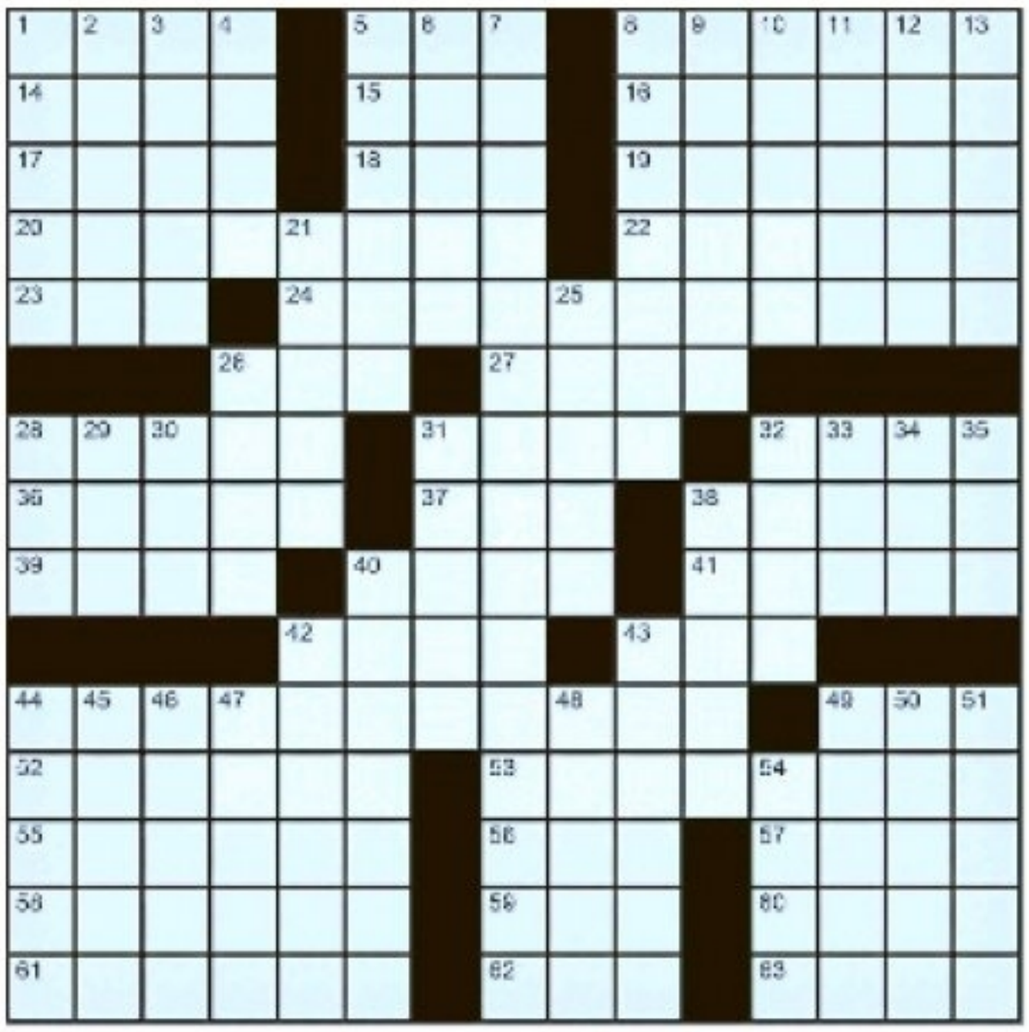
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine" character
5. "Sunglasses at Night" singer ...his initials-sharers
8. Lassos
14. Fort __, Ontario
15. Derisive shout!
16. Make certain
17. Ms. Olin
18. Sweat spot
19. "Bird Song" by Canadian band The __' Jennys
20. 'The Great' river in Quebec: 2 mots
22. Bands like Arcade Fire
23. Diane's portrayer on "Cheers" ...her initials-sharers
24. 2009 Adam Sandler movie about an unwell comedian, co-starring Vancouver-born actor Seth Rogen: 2 wds.
26. __ Angeles
27. Leaver
28. Google alternative
31. Gov. agents
32. Hat-tipper's polite address
36. Politically pick
37. White House nickname
38. Vocalize
39. Fish __
40. Folk singer/actor Mr. Ives
41. Rankin __, Nunavut
42. Pre-midnight time, __ 'clock
43. Genetic info carrier
44. 'Jewel of the Eastern Townships' village in Quebec: 2 wds.
49. Nature's swimming pool, in French
52. Off the boat/On the beach
53. Catholic prayer: 2 wds.
55. Comic actress Ms. Leachman
56. Manchester's li'l country
57. Guitarist Mr. Clapton
58. Delete private information
59. Operated
60. President's desk locale, __ Office
61. Obliterates
62. Charlotte, to Emily or Anne, for short
63. Lessen

DOWN
1. Where wishes are made
2. Cosmetics company, L'__
3. Tree growth indicators
4. Foreboding
5. The Swan constellation
6. Austrian composer, Joseph __ (b.1732 - d.1809)
7. Yosh and Stan on "SCTV": 2 wds.
8. Towel dries the still-wet dish
9. More asinine
10. Rita Coolidge/Kris Kristofferson duet: "Blue ___"
11. Dutch flower
12. The Tempest spirit
13. Perception
21. In progress
25. Sing in The Alps
26. Key's pal
28. Hitherto
29. Neighbour of Tenn.
30. Egg-warming bird
31. Region's animal life
32. Homer Simpson's mother
33. Garlic: French
34. Whiz
35. NYC opera house
38. Retro record
40. Commands
42. Three times
43. Condescends
44. Mother-of-pearl
45. Saskatchewan town near Saskatoon
46. Valerie Harper title sitcom role
47. Words in a 1970 war picture's title!
48. Hawaiian island
49. Caterpillar, for example
50. 'Parliament' suffix
51. Pedal
54. __ Mix (Cat food brand)

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Someone older might have excellent advice for you today. Probably, this person is a female. At the very least, listen to what she has to say.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You will impress people in authority (bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs) with your serious, conscientious, responsible attitude today. They know they can depend on you.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
This is an excellent day to make long-range travel plans. It's also a good day to discuss opportunities in publishing, the media, medicine, the law and higher education.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Roll up your sleeves and clean away loose details about inheritances, shared property, taxes and debt. This is also a good day to do banking details and pay bills.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You have to compromise with others today, because the Moon is in a sign that is opposite your sign. It works that way. This simply requires a little patience. No biggie.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will be productive at work today because you have the attitude and energy necessary to do routine stuff. Get as much done as possible while you are in this mood.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You might develop a crush on someone older today, or vice versa. In addition, you will take your responsibilities regarding children very seriously.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Family discussions will be practical and serious today. In fact, an older family member might have important input. This is a good day to plan how to better secure your home.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
It pleases you today to do things that help your life to be more orderly. You are in a practical frame of mind, and you want to see things around you work smoothly.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If shopping today, you will buy only items that are practical and long-lasting. No feather boas for you! You want to save money.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Because the Moon is in your sign today, you might feel more emotional than usual. However, you also might be luckier than usual! Ask the universe for a favor to see what happens.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Working alone or doing behind-the-scenes research appeals to you today. You won't overlook details because you have the right frame of mind to do this.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

5-year/Unlimited km 24 Hour Roadside Assistance

®/™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. ΔWelcome Bonus of up to $750/$1,000/$1,000 available on all new 2017 Elantra GL Auto/2016 Tucson 2.0L Premium FWD/2017 Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD models. Price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2017 Elantra GL Auto/2016 Tucson 2.0L Premium FWD/2017 Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD with an annual finance rate of 0%. Weekly payments are $83/$106/$79 for 60/60/84 months. $0/$0/$750 down payment required. Cost of borrowing is $0. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination charge of $1,695/$1,795/$1,895, levies and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Finance offers exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. ◊Leasing offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2017 Elantra GL Auto/2016 Tucson 2.0L Premium FWD/2017 Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD with an annual lease rate of 0.9%/0.9%/0.9%. Weekly lease payment of $59/$69/$108 for a 24/60/24-month walk-away lease. Down payment of $0 and first monthly payment required. Total lease obligation is $6,136/$17,940/$11,232. Lease offers include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,695/$1,795/$1,895, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Lease offer excludes registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. $0 security deposit on all models. 20,000 km allowance per year applies. Additional charge of $0.12/km. ♦Prices of models shown: 2017 Elantra Ultimate/2016 Tucson 1.6T Ultimate AWD/2017 Santa Fe Sport 2.0T Ultimate are $30,627/$41,527/$46,627. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,695/$1,795/$1,895, levies and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer.Δ◊†♦Offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. Visit www.hyundaicanada.com or see dealer for complete details. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.